

FAIR PAY ACT

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, while the Republicans are trying to give huge tax breaks to the rich, working people struggle to make ends meet. While the Republicans attempt to deny the minimum wage to women trying to move from welfare to work, the challenge for working women to achieve pay equity becomes more difficult.

For Hispanic women, the challenge is greater still. Tomorrow, June 21, will mark the day when Hispanic women earn what white men earned the year before for comparable work, and Hispanic women, they pay payroll taxes. That is taxes.

We know that discrimination is wrong, but employers continue to get away with wage discrimination despite the passage of the Equal Pay Act 30 years ago.

Today I rise in support of the Fair Pay Act, which requires employers to pay equal wages for compatible work.

While the Republicans try to keep women from even earning the minimum wage, the Democrats are fighting to provide fairness for working women.

ANY EXCUSE IS A GOOD EXCUSE

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, any excuse is a good excuse if one does not want to do something. Let us see. What is today's excuse for voting against tax relief?

Well, the tax relief is going for the wealthy. We cannot give the rich a tax break. Well, who are these so-called rich? Liberals say that if one makes more than \$40,000 per year, one is rich. Well, that is bad news for the aircraft workers in Wichita, the air capital of the world, bad news because this will be the third weekend this month that single mothers have gone to work to work overtime, the third weekend they will miss spending time with their three children. They are just working to make ends meet, and somehow, somehow they thought being rich would be just a little bit better.

No tax relief for the wealthy. Mr. Speaker, any excuse is a good excuse when you do not want to do something.

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SUPPORT DEMOCRACY IN ALBANIA

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, since 1992 Albania has evolved into a democracy. Inspired by their dynamic leader, Speaker of Parliament Arbënor, who spent 25 years in prison struggling for

democracy, they were able to set communism aside. Mr. Speaker, those great triumphs are now in danger. The Communist Party in Albania vowed to disregard the outcome of the June 29 elections unless the Communist Party wins.

Mr. Speaker, this is a great tragedy, and this is a danger for the entire free world. Albania can become the next Bosnia. Congress must ensure free and open elections in Albania. Congress must support Speaker Arbënor, and in addition, the Congress of the United States should support admitting a free, open, and democratic Albania into NATO. The Albanians have set communism aside. Congress must join to help the freedom fighters in Albania.

REDUCE TAXES ON SMALL BUSINESSES

(Mr. PAPPAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, most people on Main Street in my district in central New Jersey understand who the real job creators are. They know that the little shops just starting out, small businesses struggling to get by, and people who have decided to work out of their homes are aware of where most of the jobs are. More jobs are created in those areas than anywhere else in the economy.

The kicker is that these small businesses, mom and pop enterprises that are slowly built up over a lifetime, sometimes cannot get passed on to their children when they die. For all these reasons we need tax relief for the real engines of our economy, small businesses: death tax relief, capital gains tax relief, and the new home office tax deduction for people giving it a go on their own. Let us pass this kind of tax relief this year. That is why I am here. That is what the American people expect.

TAX RELIEF FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the American people want tax relief. They want lower taxes, but Mr. Speaker, the American people want a tax cut that goes to the people who need it most, American working families. The Republican tax bill is a boom for Wall Street, but a bust for Main Street.

The Republican tax bill gives little relief to the working people, people struggling to pay a mortgage, a car loan, their credit card bills, and send their kids to college. The Republican tax bill gives most of the tax breaks to the wealthiest people in America. Almost 60 percent of the Republican tax credits goes to the the wealthiest 5 percent of Americans, people who on average earn \$250,000 a year.

That is not right, it is not fair, and it is not just. That is not what the American people want. Democrats want a tax cut for the middle class, for working families. These are the people who deserve tax relief. Let us not give away the store to millionaires like Rush Limbaugh and other yacht-owning junk bond traders and Rolls Royce drivers. Say no to the Republican tax break bill.

BIG HAT, NO CATTLE; NOT MUCH BEHIND THE DEMOCRATS' RHETORIC

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I am told in Texas they have a saying that means "All talk but no action." In classic Texan, they say, "Big hat, no cattle." To me that means there is not much behind the rhetoric.

Mr. Speaker, I am from the great State of Nevada, but I am pretty sure that the people of Texas are talking about the Democrats when they talk about taxes. Sure, they are all for them, they say, but when it comes to giving the middle-class families some real tax relief, all of a sudden the middle-class tax cuts get magically transformed into tax cuts for the wealthy. Middle-class taxpayers in my district are starting to scratch their heads when they hear that some people in Washington think they should not get tax relief because suddenly they are the rich.

I think I understand what so many of them start questioning, whether some of the people who claim to be for middle-class tax cuts are really sincere. Big hat, no cattle. I think Texans are onto something here.

REPUBLICANS WILL PROVIDE TAX BREAKS AND TAX CUTS TO THE RICHEST IN AMERICA

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, let us be clear about the bogus arguments of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. The fact of the matter is that if you do not pay Federal taxes, income tax or a payroll tax, you are not eligible for a child tax credit in the Democratic proposal. If you do work and pay taxes, in fact you are eligible for the child tax credit.

Let them not pull the wool over people's eyes, while they want to provide tax breaks and tax cuts to the richest 1 percent of the people in this country, those who make over \$247,000. That is where the bulk of their tax break goes.

What they have done is they have cut back on the child care tax credit for working families; two people in the workplace who have to be there for economic reasons, they have cut back